(c) the steps Government have taken to increase public awareness regarding blindness in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Programme for Control of Blindness is being implemented throughout the country including Andhra Pradesh since 1976. Andhra Pradesh was also included under the World Bank assisted Cataract Blindness Control Project since 1994-95.

(c) Steps taken to increase public awareness regarding blindness are:—

1. Eye care messages through mass media; regional television and All India Radio;
2. House to house screening of blind persons through village based linked workers and motivating them for utilizing services;
3. Promoting donation of eyes after death through pledging;
4. School eye screening programme for promoting eye care; identification and treatment of children with refractive errors.

Action taken under Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994

3957. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has been enacted;

(b) if so, the number of cases for violation of the said Act registered for the last three years; and

(c) the action taken against the disclosure of the sex of the foetus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of

Misuse) Act, 1994 and Rules thereunder came into effect from 1st January, 1996.

(b) and (c) The details of violation of the provisions of the Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 reported so far is given below:

1. **Tamil Nadu**

Two cases of violation of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 were reported in the State during 1998 and 1999.

Out of the two cases one has been reported in Madurai and another case in Dharmpuri. The Joint Director of Health Services, Madurai at Usilampatti who is the Appropriate Authority at District level has been directed to file a case against the erring Dr. P.A. Chandrasekaran for criminal offence deliberately committed by him in contravention of the provisions of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994.

Another case was reported in Dharmapuri District. The Superintendent of Police has registered a criminal case No. 16/98 and filed charge sheet against the erring doctor in this regard.

2. **Delhi**

During the last three years only one complaint has been received regarding violation of the said Act. This was enquired into by the officers of the Department of Family Welfare by inspecting the premises and during inspection, the premises were found deserted. Therefore, no case has been registered.

3. **Haryana**

Two complaints regarding female foeticide were received from Jakhal (Fatehbad) and Mohindergarh in 1998. The enquiries were got conducted but the charges could not be substantiated for want of evidence against the violators.